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impossible to foresee how matters will go on in the present session at this crisis which all must allow to be a period of unexampled difficulty. Will the people do their parts in demanding inquiry, or will they continue in apathy? Will the parliament approve themselves vigilant guardians of the public weal? Will the people and parliament go hand in hand, or in the words of a late able statesman, shall we have "a petitioning people, and an addressing parliament?" or will both neglect their duty? On the manner in which time shall give a solution to these queries, much, very much indeed depends.

IRELAND.

The Duke of Richmond, lord Lieutenant of Ireland makes frequent progresses through the country. His jovialities smooth his way and tend to remove prejudices. In a convivial hour at Limerick, he expressed liberal sentiments, towards our Catholic brethren. He has been requited for his condescension. The inhabitants of Newry previously to his arrival in that town, were summoned to consider of addressing him. In the spirit of returning unanimity, it was resolved not to address, as he belonged to an administration hostile to the claims of the Catholics. But his liberality at Limerick was remembered, another meeting was called, and an address was agreed on by both Protestants and Catholics, in which the removal of all restrictions was unequivocally alluded to. In his answer we are sorry to observe he took no notice of this part of the address. At Limerick he spoke *as the man*, at Newry, *as the minister*.

(For the address and answer, see the documents)

While the citizens of London have been laudably engaged in exertions to procure inquiries into the multiplied causes of our disastrous situation, the common council of Dublin, at their quarterly assembly, have been differently engaged. A resolution was brought forward to express their determination to resist the claims of the Catholics, which was rejected by 39 votes against 34. This triumph of liberality augurs well when compared with the former illiberal conduct of

that corporate body. So far is commendable, yet they are still silent on the momentous questions, which ought to operate on every patriotic breast, in the present awful crisis; and they appear far behind the citizens of London, in enlightened views. The festivities of the table ill compensate for the decay of public spirit, and of public virtue. The affability of a vice-regal court, and a round of city feasts, are poor substitutes for that noble independence, which is the essence of freedom, and causes a nation to be truly respectable, even if not possessed of a separate legislature.—It is fashionable with some to attribute all our political evils to the union. But whether that measure which was brought about by very profligate means, be in itself hurtful or not to us, enlarged patriotism and public spirit would enable us to surmount all difficulties. But alas! there is a miserable lack of these essential requisites to the welfare of a state. If independence of mind is wanting, no advantages of external situation, can compensate for its absence, nor no disadvantages can controul its powerful energies when it exists. It is independence of mind which we want.

"—Be firm, nor let corruption sly,
Twine round your heart, indissoluble
chains

Determin'd hold
Your independence, for that once de-
stroy'd,
Unfounded, Freedom is a morning dream
That flits ærial from the spreading eye."

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

SMITH, MAYOR.

In a meeting or assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several companies of the city of London, in Common-hall assembled, at the Guildhall of the said city, on Tuesday the 9th day of January 1810.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

1. That it is the undoubted right of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the city of London, to present their petitions to the King, sitting upon his throne, that out of personal feelings towards their Sovereign they did at the last Common Hall, waive the exercise of this right.

2. Resolved unanimously—That it appears that the Secretary of state informed

the sheriffs, that the petition of the livery could be received only through his office, that they have been denied not only the usual access to his majesty by a personal audience, but the undoubted right of presenting the same, when they had actual access to his majesty at the levee, where they attended to present, and did present, a petition from the court of common council.

3, Resolved unanimously—That such a denial is not only subversive of the rights of the livery, but a flagrant violation of the right of petitioning, claimed, demanded, and insisted upon, and confirmed to them by the bill of rights.

4, Resolved unanimously—That all complaints of the misconduct and incapacity of his majesty's servants are most likely to be nugatory, if such complaints must pass through the hands of those very servants, and the people can have no security that their complaints are heard.

5, Resolved—That whoever advised his majesty not to receive the petition of the livery in the accustomed and established mode, have committed a scandalous breach of their duty, violated one of the first principles of the constitution, and abused the confidence of their sovereign.

6, Resolved unanimously—That this common hall, disregarding all attempts and designs of interested and corrupt hirelings, who derive emoluments from the national burthens, to impute unworthy and disloyal motives to those who resist unprincipled and dangerous encroachments upon their established rights, are determined, to the utmost of their power, to maintain them against those evil counsellors, who have thus raised a barrier between the king and the people, and thereby prevented their just complaints from reaching the royal ear.

7, Resolved—That the following instructions be given to our representatives in parliament:

Gentlemen—You are hereby instructed to move in the house of commons (or support such motion, if moved) for an humble address to his Majesty, praying for an immediate and rigid inquiry into the cause of the unexampled failures and disasters which have attended our late expeditions to Spain, Portugal, and Holland, whereby the blood and treasure of the country have been shamefully sacrificed, without rendering any effectual assistance to our allies, checking the progress of the enemy, or tending to the glory or security of his majesty's crown and dominions. You are also instructed to support all motions which have for their object inquiry into the violation of the rights of petitioning—

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into the wasteful expenditure of the public money—the correction of public abuses—the abolition of all unnecessary places and pensions—the shortening of the duration of parliaments, and restoring them to their constitutional purity and independence, as the only means of retrieving our public affairs, and enabling this country successfully to contend against surrounding nations.

8, Resolved unanimously—That the sheriffs, attended by Mr. Remembrancer, do forthwith wait upon his majesty, and deliver into his majesty's hand, in the name of the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of London, a fair copy of the foregoing resolutions, signed by the town-clerk.

9, Resolved unanimously—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, for his independent behaviour upon all occasions, and particularly for his conduct this day.

10, Resolved unanimously—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sheriff Wood, for his general conduct, and for his having requested an audience of his majesty, agreeable to the instructions of this hall.

11, Resolved unanimously—That the resolutions of this day, together with the petition agreed upon, on the 4th of December last, be signed by the town-clerk, and published in the usual morning and evening papers.

WOOD: & REP.
TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
The humble and dutiful address and petition of the lord mayor, aldermen and livery of the city of London, in common hall assembled.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of the city of London; in common hall assembled, most humbly approach your majesty, at this awful crisis, to exercise a duty no less painful than imperious.

It is to represent with humility to your majesty the present deplorable situation of public affairs, that we have again approached your royal person.

Attached to your majesty's illustrious house, from affection and from duty, we should ill demonstrate the sincerity of our loyalty, were we to conceal from your majesty, that it is not amongst the least considerable of our grievances, that attempts should have been made to brand your majesty's faithful subjects with disaffection to your person and government, whenever they have exercised their indubitable right to complain of gross abuses in the state, or to attribute the disgraceful failure of expensive and calamitous enterprises, to the ignorance and incapacity of

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those, who either planned or executed them; as if infallibility were the appendage of office, and belongs of right to those who may be called into your majesty's councils.

With equal grief and indignation we have seen the disastrous result of various expeditions, in which your majesty's armies have been unhappily engaged, and which most forcibly mark the disgraceful imbecility of those distracted councils, which have so scandalously lavished the blood and treasure of a patient, loyal, and burthened people.

Towards the close of the preceding year, your faithful citizens humbly expressed to your majesty their deep concern and disappointment at the disgraceful convention of Cintra; but we have yet to deplore, that due and efficient inquiry has not been made into that disgraceful transaction.

It is equally painful to call to your majesty's recollection the melancholy fate of a second army, assembled within the peninsula, under the gallant commander, Sir John Moore—ignorant alike of the state and disposition of the Spaniards, and the force and designs of the enemy, this army being sent into the interior of Spain, was in imminent danger of being captured; in this critical emergency and state of agonizing perplexity, abandoned to his own resources, this hapless, but meritorious officer, at length discovered that he had no safety but in flight, with the loss of his ammunition, horses, specie, and baggage, and harrassed and assailed on all sides, he secured the retreat of the remains of his gallant followers, by the sacrifice of his own invaluable life.

Deriving no benefit from experience, a third, well-appointed army, under the command of Sir Arthur Wellesley, was hurried into the interior of Spain, alike ignorant of the force and movements of the enemy, where, after an unprofitable display of British valour, and a dreadful slaughter, this army, like the former, was compelled to seek its safety by a precipitate retreat, before (what we were led to believe) a vanquished foe, leaving thousands of our sick and wounded countrymen in the hands of the enemy.

This loss, like others, has passed without inquiry, and as if impunity had placed the servants of the crown above the reach of justice, your majesty has been advised to confer titles of honourable distinction on the general, who had thus exhibited a rash and ostentatious display of unprofitable bravery.

After these multiplied errors, and in defiance of reiterated experience, we have seen another expedition yet more expensive, more disgraceful, and more calamitous

than the former. This armament, delayed until the fate of Austria was decided, landed on the unwholesome shores of the Scheldt, where, after an unaccountable state of inaction, thousands of our brave soldiers have miserably and ingloriously perished, by pestilence, privation and disease, without having accomplished one national object. On such an expedition, planned and conducted by a minister, who it is now known had been pronounced unfit for his office by his colleagues—an expedition that touches all minds with shame, and fills all hearts with agony, it is too painful to dilate.

We cannot refrain from representing to your majesty, that while the affairs of the nation have been so shamefully mis-conducted abroad, the most scandalous waste, profusion and mismanagement, has prevailed at home; and your majesty's confidential advisers, destitute of all those qualities essential to good government, and regardless alike of the sufferings of the people and of the honour of their sovereign, and insensible or indifferent to the surrounding dangers, and the impending fate of the country, have been engaged in the most disgraceful squabbles, intrigues and cabals, that ever degraded the councils of any nation, and which cannot but be as disreputable to your majesty's government as they are ruinous and dishonourable to the country.

While we disclaim all interest in the views of contending parties, from a firm conviction that we cannot look for a reformation in the abuses of the state, from any persons or parties interested in the preservation of them; we cannot but express our ardent hope that your majesty will be more fortunate in the choice of the men to whom you may hereafter confide the conduct of affairs, and that your councils will be no longer embarrassed, nor the country insulted and dishonoured by those disgraceful occurrences, which, while they have exposed us to the ridicule of surrounding nations, may embolden the enemy to look forward with confidence to the subjugation of a nation so distracted in her councils, and so improvidently governed.

That while we forbear enumerating a long train of internal grievances, we cannot but attribute such a series of failures and disasters to the abuses and corruptions of the state, and the consequent want of a constitutional controul over the public expenditure, and the servants of the crown, whereby the responsibility of ministers appears to exist only in name.

We therefore humbly pray your majesty will be graciously pleased to assure your loyal and affectionate people, that the

object to which their wishes are directed, is neither to be abandoned or deluded; and that your majesty will be pleased to institute a rigid, impartial, and general inquiry, into these great national misfortunes; into the plans upon which these expeditions were undertaken; and into the conduct of the commanders to whom they were intrusted. Signed by order,

HENRY WOODTHORPE.

NEWRY MEETING.

In consequence of a requisition of the seneschal of Newry, a meeting of the inhabitants of that town took place, on Tuesday, the 26th of December, to consider of the propriety of voting an address to the lord lieutenant, on his intended progress through the town. The Seneschal having taken the chair, he informed the meeting that he had received an account from Lord Jocelin, that the Duke of Richmond would pass through, and an address to his Grace was proposed. This however was objected to, not on the grounds of any personal dislike to his Grace, but on account of his being one of the *No Popery Administration*, and so decidedly and unequivocally was this the sentiment of the meeting, that the object was abandoned, and the meeting was unanimously dissolved.

If any thing can exhibit the necessity of inculcating sentiments of liberality on all occasions, the good effects may be fairly exemplified on the present occasion, as those in Newry who might have been induced, from various and contradictory sentiments, to oppose an address proposed by the oppositionists, have been on this occasion happily united, by the publication of the liberal sentiments avowed by the Duke of Richmond on his late tour in the South. We therefore rejoice in laying before the public any account that may prove the good effect of persons of different parties coming together to consult on any public measure, for however their sentiments may at first be jarring and contradictory, yet on mature reflection the heated imagination will subside and good sense will prevail. Observe therefore the good effects produced in the space of four days—As the wish to compliment the Duke of Richmond was so happily brought about by a wish to re-echo the previous liberal sentiments avowed by his Grace. On the 30th of December a new requisition was issued in the morning for a meeting to be held at twelve o'clock. On the Seneschal taking the chair, a debate of considerable length took place, the result of which was the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions:—

That his Grace the Lord Lieutenant should be addressed on his passage through the town.

That a committee of nine gentlemen should retire to prepare an address.

That it be an instruction to said committee, that the determination of the town in favour of Catholic Emancipation should, in express words, or by unequivocal allusion, form a part of said address.

After the adjournment of an hour, the aggregate meeting was resumed, and the address proposed by the committee was unanimously adopted, to be presented on behalf of the inhabitants of the town, by Robert Thompson, esq. Seneschal. On the 3d of January, the address was accordingly presented to the Duke of Richmond:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE:

We, his Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects, the inhabitants of Newry, animated with a grateful sense of the happiness we enjoy under your mild, just and equal administration, humbly beg leave through our Seneschal, to offer to your Grace our warm and sincere congratulations on your arrival in this town. We rejoice in the opportunity of testifying our inviolable attachment to our beloved King, his family and government, and of expressing our ardent wish that he may long continue to reign over a free, happy and united people.—In proportion as we entertain a just veneration for our beloved and aged monarch, and a due regard for our invaluable liberties, we contemplate with seriousness the awful hazard in which both may become involved, by the accumulated power of the enemy with whom we are engaged; but though impressed with the greatness of the contest, with the immense value of that for which we contend, we look without dismay to the issue. Our first great hope is in the protecting mercies of an all ruling Providence; and as far as all human means can be relied on, we depend upon the undoubted valour of our fleets and armies. The wisdom of our Sovereign and of his Council, will, we trust, remove all cause of jealousy and all source of division in his empire. In an united people enjoying a perfect community of rights; feeling the value of equal laws justly administered; attached to the dear affections of their homes, associated in the spirit of valour and of loyalty, there will be found that strength which is alone commensurate to the crisis.

THE DUKE'S ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

I return you my sincere thanks for your congratulations on my arrival in your